

Message Text

PAGE 01 BANGKO 20054 291047Z

21 14

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 290745Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9360

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

S E C R E T BANGKOK 20054

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PINS, TH, BM

SUBJECT: STATUS OF KIDNAPPED RUSSIANS

REF: (A) BANGKOK 19401 B) STATE 250840

1. REGARDING JACK ANDERSON COLUMN (REF B), DEPARTMENT UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE THAT SHAN GROUP WHICH CONTACTED WOLFF LAST SUMMER THROUGH INTERMEDIARY DOES NOT REPEAT NOT HOLD SOVIET HOSTAGES. IT WAS SHAN STATES ARMY REPRESENTATIVE WHICH WAS IN TOUCH WITH CONGRESSMAN WOLFF, WHILE HOSTAGES ARE HELD BY LOI MAW. WE WOULD SERIOUSLY DOUBT WHETHER SSA WOULD IN FACT BE ABLE TO DELIVER HOSTAGES EVEN IF THEY WERE SO INCLINED. IN VIEW SENSITIVITY THIS ISSUE, WOULD MUCH APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION WHICH BECOMES AVAILABLE TO DEPARTMENT ON CONNECTIONS WHICH WOLFF MAY HAVE HAD WITH SSA OR OTHER GROUPS CONCERNING SOVIET PERSONNEL.

2. THERE HAVE RECENTLY BEEN TWO ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN BANGKOK CONCERNING SOVIET HOSTAGES.

3. GENERAL KRIANGSAK TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS IN LATE DECEMBER THAT HE RECENTLY HAD A MEETING WITH THE UNCLE OF CHANG CHI-FU AND THAT THE UNCLE TOLD HIM SOVIET DOCTORS WERE STILL BEING HELD IN NORTHERN BURMA AND WOULD BE BROUGHT TO THAILAND FOR DELIVER TO THAI AUTHORITIES NOT LATER THAN FEBRUARY 20.

(A) KRIANGSAK SAID HE MADE IT CLEAR TO LOI MAW REPRESENTATIVES THAT SECRET

PAGE 02 BANGKO 20054 291047Z

RELEASE OF SOVIETS MUST BE UNCONDITIONAL. HE IMPLIED TO THEM THAT HE

MIGHTPASS WORD TO GUB REGARDING THE RELEASE AND THAT BURMESE MIGHT IN SOME WAY RESPOND TO THIS "GOOD ACT." HOWEVER, THIS

WOULD BE UP TO GUB AND KRIANGSAK COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT MAKE ANY COMMITMENT ON QUID PRO QUO.

(B) KRIANGSAK TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS ALSO THAT HE HAS 12 LETTERS, ONE CASSETTE AND SOME MOTION PICTURE FILM FROM THE SOVIET DOCTORS. HE INTENDS TO DELIVER THESE TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN BANGKOK AS EVIDENCE THAT THE HOSTAGES ARE IN GOOD HEALTH. HE IMPLIED THE TURNOVER WOULD TAKE PLACE AFTER MOTION PICTURE FILM HAS BEEN PROCESSED.

4. INRELATED DEVELOPMENT, DCM BRIEFED SOVIET CHARGE DECEMBER 29 ON GIST OF KRIANGSAK'S COMMENTS AND ALSO PASSED TO HIM COPY OF JACK ANDERSON COLUMN (REF B), WITH COMMENT THAT WE HAD NO SUBSTANTIATION OF INVOLVEMENT IN THIS MATTER BY CONGRESSMAN WOLFF. SOVIET CHARGE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THIS INFORMATION AND, WHILE HE REMAINS GENERALLY PHILOSOPHICAL ABOUT THE RELEASE OF HIS COUNTRYMEN, IS OBVIOUSLY BECOMING INCREASINGLY FRUSTRATED OVER HIS INABILITY TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF HOSTAGES AFTER MORE THAN 8 MONTHS. DCM REITERATED TO HIM THAT, AT REQUEST RTG, WE ARE NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN EFFORTS TO SECURE RELEASE OF SOVIET DOCTORS BUT THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH THAI AUTHORITIES ON THIS ISSUE AND DO ANYTHING WHICH MIGHT BE PRODUCTIVE TO FACILITATE RELEASE.

KINTNER

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER SS/O-MR. TWOHIE.

SECRET

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